

IMPACT OF CULTURE ON LANGUAGE LEARNING

Abstract

A profound exploration is conducted on the influence of culture on the process of language acquisition. Through empirical research and theoretical analysis, the chapter elucidates how cultural factors shape language learning outcomes, linguistic proficiency, and communicative competence. By recognizing and addressing these influences, educators can optimize language teaching approaches to better meet the needs of diverse learners.

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I. IMPACT OF CULTURE ON LANGUAGE LEARNING

Culture is a crucial part of human lives. We live in a society in which we share common attitudes, norms, and behaviours. Culture is the glue that binds people together, guides and governs our behaviour in groups. Matsumoto (2000) highlights some common characteristics of culture as a system of rules, dynamics, groups and units, attitudes, values, beliefs, norms, behaviours communicated across age groups and have possibilities to change across time. These keywords prove that culture and community are tightly correlative and these concepts form a instruction to live as a group. Language plays an indispensable role in shaping our sense and our identity of belongingness to a particular group or community. According to Norton language shapes and reflects our identities and provides practical suggestions for using language learning to promote positive identity development. When we learn a target language, we are not supposed to acquiring grammar rules, new words and new phrases but we are also learning about the conventions, traditions, and values of the people who speak that target language. Culture and language are intertwined, inseparable, interdependent and interconnected. While learning a target language, it is essential to understand the cultural context of that target language in order to truly master it. Language learning is not just about mastering a new skill, but it's also about exploring and understanding new perspectives and ways of thinking of target language community. In the process of language learning, understanding the cultural context of a language can leads to a more comprehensive understanding of its exactness and complications. (Fulcher & Davidson, 2007). In a study titled "Culture in Language Learning and Teaching", researchers found that learners who had a good understanding of the cultural context of the language they were studying demonstrated confidently and were more proficient in using the language. "Teaching Culture: perspectives in Practice" by Patrick R. Moran (2001), discusses the importance of incorporating cultural understanding into language teaching. It provides practical strategies for how to incorporate culture into language lessons and how to foster intercultural competence in learners.

II. LANGUAGE AND CULTURE ARE INTERMIXED ELEMENTS

Language and culture are intertwined and interdependent. language reflects values of the people, beliefs and customs who speak it. It is impossible to understand language without culture as they are interconnected. The words we use, the way we communicate, expressions and non-verbal cues all these factors are influenced by the language we speak and place we live. Understanding the cultural values and beliefs that are reflected in the language can help learners to use it more effectively and appropriately. Language also plays a pivotal role in shaping our identity and our perception of belonging to a particular group or community. By studying the cultural context of a language, learners can gain an in-depth understanding of the language and its speakers. They can also develop a greater realization for the richness and diversity of human experience and gain insights into their own cultural background and identity. Learning a new language can be a journey of self-discovery and a gateway to new ways of thinking and experiencing the world. Stanlaw (2013) explains how understanding the cultural context of a language is necessary for gaining a in-depth understanding of the language and its speakers, and how learning a new language can broaden one's perspectives and provide a gateway to new ways of thinking and experiencing the world. Language is not just a collection of words and grammar rules; it is also a means of expressing culture. By studying the culture of a language, learners can better understand the context and meaning

behind the words and expressions they are learning. This can help learners to communicate more effectively and naturally in the language. Learning a language can be a challenging and time-consuming process. However, by examining the culture of the language, learners can acquire a deeper appreciation of its significance and relevance, which can increase their motivation to learn.

III. CULTURAL INFLUENCE ON COMMUNICATION

The significant challenge for the language learners is culture shows lot of influence on the communication of the target language. Understanding these communication styles and cultural norms can help learners to communicate more effectively and avoid misunderstandings. Culture shows impact on the words, on the expressions, the way we communicate and the expectations we have of others in terms of communication. Culture differences can affect communication behaviour. For example, in some cultures, disturbing someone during a conversation is considered impolite and disrespectful, while in other cultures, interrupting is seen as an action of active engagement and interest in the conversation interest in the conversation. Culture impacts more than just the expressions and words we choose when communicating with others. It also affects the way we organize our messages, the way we understand and interpret messages from others, and our expectations for how others should communicate with us. In other words, cultural differences can impact various aspects of our communication behaviours and attitudes. Cultural differences can also affect nonverbal communication, such as gestures, facial expressions, and eye contact. According to Knapp and Hall (2014), cultural differences have a major impact on nonverbal expression of language, and people from different cultures may experience misunderstandings when they encounter nonverbal communication that they are not familiar with or interpret differently. In other words, cultural diversity can cause variations in nonverbal communication, which can result in misinterpretation and difficulties in crosscultural interactions. For example, in some cultures, direct eye contact is considered an action of respect and engagement, while in others, avoiding eye contact is a way of showing respect or deference to authority. Language learning is a significant challenge to the learners when they are communicating with the native speakers, here the difference in communication style and words shows how culture impact native speakers. However, by studying the cultural context of the language, learners can gain insights into these differences and adapt their communication style to the cultural norms of the language they are learning. Gaining knowledge in cultural context of language can also be helpful to learner to learn meaningful and authentic relationships with native speakers. Culture and communication are inseparable, and mastering the cultural context of a language is important for effective communication and building meaningful relationships with native speakers.

IV. CULTURE STRENGTHENS LANGUAGE LEARNING

By studying the aspects culture, you can achieve a deeper understanding of the language and use of language accordingly. While learning a new language, it is essential to understand the cultural context of that language in order to truly master it. You can also learn about the literature, history, and art of the culture, which can give you a complete awareness of the language. Learning about the culture of our target- language can enhance your language learning experience. Integrating cultural elements into language instruction enables learners to develop a more comprehensive comprehension of the language's structures and

usage in various social situations. In today's globalized world, cultural competence is a mandatory skill for success. By studying the culture of the language, learners can develop a better understanding of cultural norms, values, and beliefs. This can help them to navigate cross-cultural interactions with greater sensitivity and awareness. Language learners who travel to countries where the language they are studying is spoken can greatly benefit from their knowledge of the culture. By understanding the customs, traditions, and social norms of the culture, learners can navigate the country more easily and make deeper connections with local people.

V. CONCLUSION

In this chapter, culture plays a key role in learning language effectively. By including cultural knowledge into language learning helps learners to gain in-depth understanding of the language, personal growth and development, communicate more effectively and also develop a deeper appreciation and understanding of the culture. Culture can make language learning process effortless and closer to language by giving limitless materials, which describe the lifestyle of the particular countries. Although fundamental knowledge can be acquired without culture, cultural consciousness is very important to be a successful leader in learning language.

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